

Reference

Miscellaneous Products

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Introduction

The *Miscellaneous Products* section covers products which **do not** fit appropriately under any other section in the *Reference* chapter. These products are listed as follows:

- ◆ Asian medicinal products
- ◆ Birds' nests
- ◆ Cosmetics
- ◆ Fomites
- ◆ Products of biotechnology
 - ❖ DNA
 - ❖ Plasmid
 - ❖ Probe
 - ❖ RNA

◆ Salt scrapings

These products are regulated because they are at risk of transmitting animal disease viruses. The products can transmit viruses by association with animals or by being made from animal by-products.


Also, listed in the locator ([Table 3-15-2](#)) are examples of miscellaneous products that are admissible and **do not** require a VS permit.

When a VS permit authorizes entry of the miscellaneous product, match the following information on the shipping documents with that on the permit:

- ◆ Current date
- ◆ Description of the material
- ◆ Shipper
- ◆ Consignee
- ◆ Conditions spelled out on the permit

Follow [Table 3-15-1](#) as you match the permit with the shipping documents.

TABLE 3-15-1 Action to Take on Miscellaneous Products Imported Under VS Permit

If the shipping documents:	And the:	Then:
Match the permit		RELEASE or CONTROL as stated on the permit
Do not match the permit	Permit has expired	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS for renewal (see page 2-4-25) SAFEGUARD the importation until you hear from VS, TTSPS
	Discrepancy is other than an expired permit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)

Locator

When a VS permit does **not** authorize entry, use [Table 3-15-2](#) which directs you to the final regulatory action to take.

TABLE 3-15-2 Determine Where to Find the Regulatory Action on Miscellaneous Products Not Authorized by a Permit

If the importation is:	Then:
Animal products to be incorporated into cosmetics and cosmetics	GO to Table 3-15-10
Antibiotics	RELEASE
Asian medicinal products	GO to Table 3-15-11
Birds' nests	GO to Table 3-15-3
Cheese and yogurt starters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Lactobacillus</i> sp. ◆ <i>Streptococcus</i> sp. ◆ Fungi, including yeast 	RELEASE
Chemically synthesized, biosynthesized, and natural products	GO to Chemically Synthesized, Biosynthesized, and Natural Products on page 3-15-13
Fomites (carriers, footwear, garbage, used farm machinery, meat covers, semen and embryo containers, hay or straw, egg cartons, crates, flats, or liners)	GO to Fomites on page 3-15-4
Fungal cultures (non-pathogenic to livestock or avian)	RELEASE only if not a plant pest
Paraffin or resin embedded materials (non-livestock)	RELEASE

Birds' Nests

Importations of birds' nests are imported for both edible and inedible purposes. Edible birds' nests are the dried, glutinous secretion from salivary glands of Southern Asiatic swifts. The nests are used in making soup. Inedible birds' nests are for decoration and display.

Apply plant regulations to all importations of birds' nests. They must be free from soil and prohibited plant material such as wheat (or related genera) straw, rice straw, corn (or related genera) straw, noxious weed propagules, or parasitic plants and their seeds.

TABLE 3-15-3 Birds' Nests


If the bird's nest is:	And the importation is a:	Then:
Edible	Commercial importation	GO to Table 3-15-4
	Small amount, obviously not commercial	RELEASE  <div>The importation may be subject to plant regulations</div>
Inedible	→	1. REFUSE ENTRY if not authorized by a VS or PPQ permit (soil from any country is not allowed because of anthrax) 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

TABLE 3-15-4 Commercial Importations of Edible Birds' Nests

If the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a statement from the manufacturer or shipper that the birds' nests were heated to a minimum internal temperature of 161° F (72° C)	1. RELEASE 2. It is optional to INSPECT the importation to verify that its birds' nests are not dried, flossed pork. The consistency of birds' nests is like that of dried gelatin; the stringy, dried saliva looks like fine noodle
Not accompanied by the required certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)

Fomites

Fomites are inanimate objects that may be contaminated with animal disease viruses and could transmit those viruses into the United States. Fomites are those importations which are likely to have come in contact with animals or animal products, such as:

- ◆ Barn dirt
- ◆ Barn sand
- ◆ Barns (brick, adobe, wood)
- ◆ Carriers
- ◆ Clothing
- ◆ Containers
- ◆ Egg cartons, crates, flats, or liners

- ◆ Farm machinery, used
- ◆ Feed
- ◆ Feeders
- ◆ Feed utensils
- ◆ Footwear
- ◆ Garbage
- ◆ Garden soil
- ◆ Hair, livestock
- ◆ Hay
- ◆ Meat covers
- ◆ Pails
- ◆ Road sand
- ◆ Semen and embryo containers
- ◆ Soil
- ◆ Stalls
- ◆ Straw, hay, and grass
- ◆ Vehicles
- ◆ Walls, brick, and plaster
- ◆ Wood

Procedures for taking regulatory action on some of the fomites listed above occur in the *Airport and Maritime Operations Manual* (AMOM) and are also regulated under the plant regulations and appear in the *Plant Import—Nonpropagative Volume of Manuals*.

Carriers Including Containers

Aircraft, ship, railroad car, and truck carriers and containers are considered a risk when found contaminated with evidence of blood, hay, straw, manure, or garbage. Procedures for taking action on trucks from Mexico that are found contaminated with animal material are covered under [Trucks Transporting Livestock from Mexico](#) on **page 2-2-12**. Procedures for taking action on other contaminated carriers are in AMOM and will **not** be repeated here.

Egg Cartons, Crates, Flats, or Liners

Egg cartons, crates, flats, or liners can be contaminated with blood, feathers, manure, shell, or egg. Go to [Table 3-15-5](#) for action to take.

TABLE 3-15-5 Action to Take on Egg Cartons, Crates, Flats, or Liners

When inspected, determine if the packing material is:	Then:
Clean and uncontaminated	RELEASE
Contaminated with blood, egg shell, egg breakage, feathers, or manure,	REQUIRE the importer to REMOVE and DESTROY the packing material

Farm Machinery, Used

Used farm machinery includes vehicles, equipment, and other implements used in agricultural and farming operations. Use [Table 3-15-6](#) to regulate imported farm machinery that is used (**not** new).

TABLE 3-15-6 Regulatory Action to Take on Imported, Used Farm Machinery

If the country or region of origin is known to be:	And the importation:	And visual inspection reveals the machinery:	Then:
Affected with FMD	Is appropriately certified ¹	Is clean	RELEASE
		Is dirty ²	1. COMPLETE PPQ Form 523, Emergency Action Notification 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options ❖ RE-EXPORT ❖ CLEAN and WASH ³
	Lacks the appropriate certification	→	1. REFUSE ENTRY 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from FMD	→	Is clean	RELEASE
		Is dirty ²	1. COMPLETE PPQ Form 523, Emergency Action Notification 2. REQUIRE that the equipment be cleaned and washed prior to entry

- 1 A government certificate signed by an official representative of the national health service of the region or area of origin [for example, UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)]. The certificate must carry an official seal and a statement declaring that, "The used farm equipment indicated on this certificate has been steam cleaned and is free of all dirt and particulate matter." In addition, the certificate must also supply the following information:

- ◆ Date of issue of the certificate
- ◆ Name and address of the applicant
- ◆ Name and address of the consignor
- ◆ Name and address of the consignee
- ◆ Date the equipment was cleaned
- ◆ Container number or marks
- ◆ Serial number of each piece of equipment
- ◆ Name of vessel or carrier
- ◆ Bill of lading number
- ◆ Description of the piece of equipment

The Vietnamese regulatory agency for issuing and certifying certificates of steam cleaning for used farm equipment is "The Vietnam Pesticide Company/Termite Control & Fumigation Company."

- 2 If a coating of road film is the only visible dirt found, and no other organic matter is present, RELEASE the machinery.
- 3 Used farm machinery that is dirty may be allowed entry if the machinery is cleaned at a port which has a cleaning facility. If the port of entry **does not** have a cleaning facility, then the importer or the importer's agent may choose to send the machinery directly to a port with a cleaning facility. However, **never** allow overland transport. If the cleaning option is **not** selected, the importer or the importer's agent must re-export the machinery within 48 hours. If workable, take digital photographs of the equipment and the certificate and submit to the PPQ Veterinary Medical Office (e-mail <Margaret.M.Dziedziak@usda.gov>) for follow-up with the country or region that supplied the certification.

Footwear

Shoes or boots which have been used on a farm or ranch that has livestock or poultry and is located in a country with diseases of concern, may be contaminated. Procedures for taking action on footwear are under **Articles That Require Cleaning and Disinfection** on **page 2-4-13**.

Garbage

Garbage includes all waste material derived from fruit, vegetables, meat, or other plant or animal (including poultry) parts; any refuse associated with the waste material on board a carrier, including food scraps, table refuse, galley refuse, food wrappers, or packaging material; other waste material from stores, food preparation areas, passengers' or crews' quarters, dining rooms, or any other area on a carrier. Garbage also means food and meals that were available for consumption by passengers and crew on a carrier, but were **not** consumed. Procedures for controlling garbage are in the AMOM and will **not** be repeated here.

Semen and Embryo Containers

All containers that have been previously used to transport semen or embryos present a risk of introducing animal diseases. These containers may be manifested as nitrogen containers. First, you must ensure that the semen or embryo containers are empty. Then you can take the appropriate action based on the country of origin and animal class of the semen or embryo. The procedures for handling empty semen or embryo containers are under the *Procedures* section, [Clearing Regulated Cargo](#).

Straw, Hay, and Grass

Straw, hay, and grass can be contaminated by animal diseases through association with animals. Such plant material may also harbor ticks. Therefore, straw, hay, and grass imported as animal feed, as animal bedding, as packing material, or for manufacturing is regulated under animal regulations.

The following straw, hay, and grass materials are **not** subject to animal regulations:

- ◆ Manufactured items such as mats, hats, souvenirs, jackets, brooms, and naturally dried flowers
- ◆ Straw, hay, or grass obviously selected, processed, and packed for sale or distribution as decorative material
- ◆ Related plant products such as broomcorn, sugarcane, corn, silage soybeans, soybean meal, and flax

Note that these previously bulleted importations may be subject to plant regulations and appear in the *Plant Import: Nonpropagative Volume of Manuals*.

Importations of straw, hay and grass are **unrestricted** from Canada, New Zealand, and Norway since these countries are free from fever ticks and FMD. However, importations from all countries may be subject to plant regulations.

TABLE 3-15-7 Straw, Hay and Grass

If the country of origin is:	And:	And:	Then:
Canada or New Zealand	_____→	→	RELEASE
Mexico	The State of Chihuahua, or Sonora, or the Mexicale region of Baja California Norte	Certified ¹	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)
	A State other than Chihuahua or Sonora or the Mexicale region of Baja California Norte	_____→	
Other than Canada, Mexico, or New Zealand	_____→	→	GO to Table 3-15-8

- 1 Certified by a salaried, federal veterinarian of the Mexican government as originating from the State of Chihuahua or Sonora or the Mexicale region of Baja California Norte.

TABLE 3-15-8 Straw, Hay and Grass from Countries Other Than Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, or Norway

If the hay, grass, or straw is to be used:	And the importation is:	Then:
As animal feed or bedding	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)
For manufacturing	Consigned to an approved establishment for disinfection	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with a VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
	Not consigned to an approved establishment for disinfection	1. REFUSE ENTRY 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
For packing material	→	1. ALLOW importer to remove if practicable; otherwise REFUSE ENTRY 2. REQUIRE that the packing material be destroyed 3. GO to Disinfection on page 2-4-13
As samples for research	→	1. ADVISE importer that a VS permit is required to authorize entry 2. PROVIDE importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-4-16 on page 2-4-25)

Used Meat Covers and Scrap Bagging

Meat covers are burlap or cloth covers that were previously used to wrap fresh or frozen meat. Also regulated are mixed importations of scrap bagging with one or more pieces of material identified as being used to cover meat.



Used burlap bags and covers which have been used for plant products are regulated under the plant regulations. Refer to the *Plant Import: Nonpropagative Volume of Manuals*.


TABLE 3-15-9 Used Meat Covers and Scrap Bagging

If the country of origin is known to be:	Then:
Free from ASF, CSF, SVD, and FMD	RELEASE
Affected with ASF, CSF, SVD, or FMD	1. REFUSE ENTRY 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

Cosmetics

Cosmetics may have several ingredients of animal origin. However, if those cosmetics are packaged and ready for sale, they are unrestricted. Only bulk components of animal products to be incorporated into cosmetics are regulated.

TABLE 3-15-10 Cosmetics Containing Animal Products

If the cosmetics are shipped:	And:	Then:
In final, finished packaging and ready for sale		RELEASE
As bulk components of animal origin ¹ to be incorporated into cosmetics	Are accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE or CONTROL as stated on the permit
	Lacks a VS permit	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. ADVISE the importer that the material is being held because the importation requires a VS Permit 3. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

1 For example, amniotic fluid extract, amniotic liquid, collagen, extracts of connective tissue, or placental extract.

Asian Medicinal Products

Asian medicinal products are regulated to exclude animal diseases. Importations may include, but are **not** limited to the following animal by-products:

- ◆ Antlers (see also [Bones and Related By-Products](#) and [Trophies](#))
- ◆ Bones (see also [Bones and Related By-Products](#) and [Pet Food, and Livestock, Poultry, and Aquaculture Feed](#))

- ◆ Glands
- ◆ Hoofs
- ◆ Organs
- ◆ Skin
- ◆ Tendons
- ◆ Tissue

Examine the by-products to determine their origin. If you cannot determine the origin, look at an invoice or label, and ask the importer.

TABLE 3-15-11 Asian Medicinal Products



If the product's origin is:	And the source is:	Then:
Animal	Ruminant	GO to Table 3-15-12
	Swine	
	Poultry or bird	
	Other than listed above	RELEASE
Plant		REFER to the <i>Plant Import: Nonpropagative Volume of Manuals</i>
Mineral		RELEASE

TABLE 3-15-12 Asian Medicinal Products of Animal Origin






If the product's origin is:	And the country of origin is known to be:	And is known to be:	Then:
Ruminant	Affected with BSE		1. REFUSE ENTRY 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Free from BSE	Free from FMD	RELEASE
		Affected with FMD	GO to Table 3-15-13
Swine	Affected with ASF, CSF, FMD, or SVD		RELEASE
	Free from ASF, CSF, FMD, and SVD		
Poultry or bird	Affected with END (VVND)		GO to Table 3-15-13
	Free from END (VVND)		RELEASE

TABLE 3-15-13 Asian Medicinal Products of Ruminants, Swine, Poultry or Birds from a Country Known to Be Affected with Diseases of Concern Other Than BSE

If the product appears:	And:	And is:	And is:	Then:
Processed	Accompanied by a certificate of processing		→	RELEASE
	Lacks a certificate of processing	Antlers	Sliced parchment thin (white, almost transparent) and dry	
			Not appearing as described above	Go to Table 3-15-14
		Other than antlers	Admissible as a non-medicinal product	RELEASE
			Prohibited regardless of its intended use	1. REFUSE ENTRY 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Fresh or unprocessed			→	Go to Table 3-15-14

TABLE 3-15-14 Asian Medicinal Products That Are Restricted

If the importation is:	Then:
Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with a VS Form 16-78 See Appendix K to complete the form
Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the importer get the certification or obtain a permit

Chemically Synthesized, Biosynthesized, and Natural Products

Introduction

The chemically synthesized, biosynthesized, and natural products section covers chemically synthesized products and products having to do with or formed from biotechnology. These recombinant products result from foreign genes being inserted into microorganisms (for example, yeast and bacteria) or cells (i.e., cell culture). Genetic materials (DNA or RNA for example) can be produced either through biotechnology or chemical synthesis.

A list of some chemically synthesized and biosynthesized (recombinant), and natural products and their categories follows in **Figure 3-15-1**.

Biosynthesized Proteins	Chemically Synthesized Products	Genetic Materials
◆ Amino acids ◆ Enzymes ◆ Growth factors ◆ Hormones ◆ Interleukins	◆ Chemicals ◆ Lipopeptides ◆ Oligopeptides ◆ Polypeptides ◆ Steroids	◆ cDNA probes ◆ DNA vector ◆ Nucleic acids (DNA, RNA) ◆ Plasmids (DNA, cDNA) ◆ Primers (nucleotides)



FIGURE 3-15-1 List of Chemically Synthesized, Biosynthesized, and Natural Products and Their Categories

In regulating these products, you need to determine whether the product was chemically synthesized (i.e., synthetic) or biosynthesized (recombinant). If the product was biosynthesized, you need to further determine whether the product was produced in cell culture or microbially.

Use the **Glossary** and **Index** to this manual to determine if a product fits under this section of synthetic or biosynthesized products. Determine whether a product is synthetic by using accompanying statements from producers and shippers.


When a VS permit does **not** authorize entry to the material, use **Table 3-15-15** which directs you to the final regulatory action to take.

TABLE 3-15-15 Locator for Chemically Synthesized, Biosynthesized, and Natural Products

If the product is:	And:	Then:
Nucleic acid (RNA, DNA), plasmid, primer, probe		GO to Table 3-15-19
Tissue, protein (includes hormones), peptide	Recombinant, microbial, or synthetic	GO to Table 3-15-16
	Amphibian, fish, marine mammal, or reptile	GO to Table 3-15-20
	Feline (cat) or canine (dog)	
	Human or nonhuman primate	
	Laboratory mammal (includes gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rabbits, and rats)	
	Livestock/avian	CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)
	Derived from infectious livestock or avian microorganism (bacteria, virus)	
Not a tissue, protein, peptide, or plasmid		

Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones

TABLE 3-15-16 Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones

If:	And origin is:	Then:
Unrelated to any livestock (ruminant, equine, or swine) or avian (bird) species	Recombinant, microbial	GO to Table 3-15-17
	Chemically synthesized materials (amino acids, hormones, steroids)	GO to Table 3-15-18
	Amphibian, reptile, fish, marine mammal	GO to Table 3-15-20
	Feline (cat) or canine (dog)	
	Human or nonhuman primate	
	Laboratory animal (includes gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rabbits, and rats)	
	Cell culture	CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel (see Appendix H)
Related to livestock or avian species		

Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones of Microbial Origin Including Recombinants

TABLE 3-15-17 Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones of Microbial Origin Including Recombinants

If the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a statement from the producer/shipper which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides a description of the material including the genetic insert if applicable ◆ Indicates the material is microbially produced 	RELEASE
Lacking a statement as described above	CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)

Chemically Synthesized Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones

TABLE 3-15-18 Chemically Synthesized Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones

If the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a statement from the producer/shipper which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides a description of the material ◆ Indicates that the material is chemically synthesized 	RELEASE
Lacking the statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until importer provides required documentation

Plasmids/Nucleic Acids (RNA, DNA)/Primers/Probes

TABLE 3-15-19 Importation of Plasmids/Nucleic Acids/Primers/Probes

If the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a statement from the producer/shipper which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides a description of the material ◆ Indicates the material is produced synthetically or through biotechnology 	RELEASE
Lacking a statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until importer provides required documentation
Plasmid/nucleic acids which contain genetically or non-genetically engineered infectious plant pests (virus genome, bacteria, fungi)	CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)

Tissues/Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones


TABLE 3-15-20 Tissues/Proteins/Peptides/Enzymes/Hormones

If the importation is:	And is accompanied by a statement from the producer/shipper:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Human ◆ Nonhuman primate 	Providing a description of the material and the species from which it originated	RELEASE
	Lacking a statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until importer provides required documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Canine (dog) ◆ Feline (cat) 	Providing a description of the material and the species from which it originated	RELEASE
	Lacking a statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer provides the required documentation
Laboratory animal and includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Gerbil ❖ Guinea pig ❖ Hamster ❖ Mouse ❖ Rabbit ❖ Rat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Providing a description of the material ◆ Indicating the species from which it was derived ◆ Stating the animals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) were not exposed to or inoculated with any livestock/avian disease agent (b) did not originate from a facility where work with exotic livestock/avian disease agents is conducted 	RELEASE
	Lacking a statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer provides the required documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Amphibian ◆ Fish ◆ Marine mammal ◆ Reptile 	Providing a description of the material and the species from which it originated	RELEASE
	Lacking a statement as described above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until importer provides required documentation

Salt Scrapings

Salt scrapings is salt reclaimed from salted casings. The product is usually imported as a brine solution discolored with a red dye. The discoloration is used so the scrapings **do not** enter the human food chain.

TABLE 3-15-21 Action to Take on Salt Scrapings from Animal Casings

If the salt scrapings are from a country:	And:	Then:
Affected with ASF or BSE		1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from ASF and BSE	Accompanied by a certificate endorsed by the veterinary service of the country from which the salt (brine) from animal casings was reclaimed. The certificate must identify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The species of animal the casings were from ◆ The country or region where the animal casings were processed 	RELEASE
	Lacks the certification identified in the cell above	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer provides the required certification